In addition to the above self employment schemes, programmes to generate wage employment are implemented in rural and urban areas. These programmes are continuously monitored and evaluated to increase their efficacy in providing wage employment.

Creation of Job Opportunity

3051. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to take effective measures to create more opportunities of jobs to the people of our country during the next five years, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what concerte steps Government propose to take in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHORIE) : (a) to (c) The policies and programmes specified in the Ninth Five Year Plan document should enable 6.5 per cent per annum growth in GDP leading to expansion of work opportunities by 50.22 million during 1997-2002.

State Governments prepare and implement the policies and programmes for expansion of work opportunities in their respective States in response to the macro-economic situation.

(d) The sectoral policies and programmes for growth in output are supplemented by programmes for skill development, and employment generation programmes for specific sections of population: the poor, the scheduled castes, the scheduled tribes, educated youth and the women.

Estimate of Poor in West Bengal

3052. SHRI DAWA LAMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 881 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd March, 2000 and state :

(a) although the criteria for declaring a family below poverty line were fixed in beginning of Ninth Five Year Plan, why the Annual Income Limit will not be raised for increase in price index particularly after implementation of recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission ; and

(b) the methodology being applied for estimation of proportion and number of poor in West Bengal in detail ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS. (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Income limit of Rs. 20,000 per family per year was used as one of the exclusion criteria in the identification of families living below the poverty line under the below poverty line (BPL) census conducted by the State Governments at the beginning of the Ninth Five Year plan. This exercise is carried out at the beginning of the Five Year Plan and not every year, and the income criterion is revised prior to each exercise to take into account price increase.

(b) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage of persons living below the poverty line at national and state level on the basis of the recommendations of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakdawala Committee). According to this method, the proportion of poor in the states are estimated from the state-specific poverty lines and the consumption distribution obtained from the large sample survey data of the National Sample Survey on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The state-specific poverty lines are estimated by disaggregating the national level poverty lines, which are expressed as monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The disaggregation of the national poverty lines into state specific poverty lines is done using state specific price indices and inter-state price differential. The number of poor is estimated from the proportion of poor and the projected population of the state. This methodology is also adopted for West Bengal. The latest estimates of poverty line and poverty in West Bengal available for the year 1993-94 are given below :

	Rural	Urban	Total
Poverty line (Rs. per capita per month)	220.74	247.53	—
Percentage of People Below Poverty Line	40.80%	22.41%	35.66%
Number of People Below Poverty Line (million)	20.99	4.47	25.46

Downward Trend of Economic Growth

3053. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the economic growth registered a downward trend in the third quarter of 1999-2000 compared to the first and second quarters ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the factors responsible for a lower rate of growth have been identified; and

(d) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken in this regard in order to improve the overall performance of the economy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) According to the Quarterly Estimate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the Third Quarter (October-December) of 1999-2000 published by the Central Statistic Organisation, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India on 31st March 2000, the Gross Domestic Product in the first three quarters of 1999-2000 are estimated as Rs. 269354 crores, Rs. 251422 crores and Rs. 313838 crores respectively at 1993-94 prices. This represents an increase in GDP in the third quarter 16.5% as compared to the first quarter and by 24.8% as compared to the second quarter.

(b) to (d) In view of above, does not arise.